

REAR FRAME FOR ROAD GRADER**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

[0001] The present invention relates generally to road graders and, more particularly, to a rear frame for a road grader. The grader concerned is the type that is employed most generally in road construction work to produce level surfaces of all kinds, and which includes the components or subassemblies of the rear section of the vehicle such as the bumper, rear lights, and frame components.

[0002] For the currently employed graders from the production range of the manufacturer CNH known by the type designations "F 106.5" and "F 156", their backup lights are bolted onto the side of the rear frame. Because, in the absence of a rear-mounted implement, it is absolutely necessary for a grader to optimize axle load distribution between the front axle and the rear tandem axle, the bumper is raised up from below into the rear frame and fixed thereto with several bolts or screws. The bumper is formed from a strong end section of the rear frame itself.

[0003] Regarding the current methods of construction, they are frequently criticized on the one hand because too many individual parts are required, which complicates the design of the rear frame and for that reason leads to high production costs. On the other hand, the rear counterweight, because of its unfavorable point of attachment, is capable of being assembled only with considerable difficulty. Furthermore, it is a disadvantage that the rear frame, because of its actual function and its shape, offers too few options for the mounting of various types of rear equipment, thus limiting its flexibility for the use

of rear-mounted equipment. Finally, rear frame designed in such a way is also not exactly advantageous from point of view of visual appearance or aesthetics.

[0004] It would be a great advantage to provide a rear frame that overcomes the above problems and disadvantages.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0003] Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide an improved grader rear frame that avoids the above-noted disadvantages.

[0004] It is another object of the present invention to provide a grader rear frame that consists of few individual parts, where the point of attachment for the rear counterweight lies favorably from the point of view of simple assembly and disassembly, which offers the facility for the attachment of different pieces of rear-mounted equipment and which also still possesses an attractive appearance.

[0005] It is a further object of the present invention to provide a grader rear frame that, through the uniting of the functions of the bumper and the rear counterweight in a vertically aligned rear end plate extending across the entire breadth of the grader, brings about a reduction in the number of individual parts for the rear frame. The rear end plate, because of its arrangement right at the rear of the rear frame, assumes the function of a bumper. Its great width protects the entire rear part of the grader from damage and its high weight takes care of the corresponding effectiveness of the protective function. The integration of the backup and brake lights into the area of the outer ends of the rear end plate likewise does not require any extra parts and furthermore offers a more secure protection for the lights against damage or destruction.

[0006] It is a further object of the present invention to provide a grader rear frame wherein the rear end plate is formed as one piece.

[0007] It is a further object of the present invention to provide a grader rear frame wherein the design is such that a lighter grade/thickness metal can be used for the rear end plate, even when a heavy piece of rear-mounted equipment is deployed, all while maintaining the optimum axle load distribution between the front wheels and the tandem rear axle.

[0008] It is a still further object of the present invention to provide a grader rear frame embodiment that permits a greater thickness in the material of which the rear end plate is constructed when lighter or no rear-mounted equipment.

[0009] It is an even still further object of the present invention to provide a grader rear frame that increases the stability of the left and right longitudinal beams by joining them together by a rear transverse beam.

[0010] It is an even still further object of the present invention to provide a grader rear frame wherein the rear end plate is fixed to the rear transverse beam, mentioned above, by screws or bolts so that it is easily removable.

[0011] These and other objects are achieved by providing a grader rear frame that requires a small number of individual parts, and this exhibits lowered production costs. Through the position of the rear end plate on the free end of the rear frame, it can also be installed and dismantled very easily. The large build of the rear end plate offers several technically simple options for the attachment of numerous pieces of rear-mounted equipment, as a result of which the flexibility for this is increased. Finally, the clear and simply organized construction of this rear frame offers an attractive appearance.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0009] The advantages of this invention will be apparent upon consideration of the following detailed disclosure of the invention, especially when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings wherein:

[0010] Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the left rear side of a grader with a rear-mounted ripper;

[0011] Fig. 2 is a rear view of the grader of Fig. 1;

[0012] Fig. 3 is a rear view of the grader of Fig. 1 with a rear-mounted ripper and a sectional view through the rear end plate; and

[0013] Fig. 4 is a rear view of a grader without rear-mounted equipment with a rear end plate of great wall thickness and an enlarged sectional view through the rear end plate.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT(S)

[0015] In Fig. 1 a complete grader is shown in which its vehicle part consists essentially of a tandem axle 2 attached to the rear frame 1, an engine compartment 3 with engine (not shown), a driver's cab 4 and a rear end plate 5 belonging to the rear frame 1. This rear end plate 5 is at the same time the rear counterpoise or counterweight 6, bumper 7 and the point of attachment for the lights 8 for the grader. In this example embodiment, a rear-mounted ripper 9 is fixed onto the rear frame 1, which represents the most frequently occurring piece of rear-mounted equipment 10, which includes, for example, a vibratory plate (not shown).

[0016] The front part of the grader is formed from the front frame 11, which is supported above the front axle 12, and the front wheels 13 upon the ground.

Beneath the front frame 11, the implement 14 is arranged, which consists of the share 15, the slewing gear 16 and the swivel seating 17. An optional front dozer blade 18 arranged in front of the front wheels 13 is carried on the front frame 11.

[0017] Fig. 2 shows the rear frame 1 and the rear end plate 5 of the grader of Fig. 1 as an exploded diagram. In this case, the rear frame 1 is designed in a box shape, consisting of a head piece 19, a left longitudinal beam 20, a right longitudinal beam 21 and a rear transverse beam 22 connecting both ends of the longitudinal beams 20 and 21.

[0018] In Fig. 3, the rear view of the grader shown in Figs. 1 and 2 is depicted, which is envisaged for use with a rear-mounted implement 10 having a high or heavy weight. Therefore, here the rear end plate 5 has a relatively small wall thickness, in order, together with a heavy piece of rear-mounted equipment 10, for example a rear-mounted ripper 9, to provide an optimum axle load distribution for the grader. To be seen well here is also, lighting 8 is integrated into the rear end plate 5, where on both sides at its outer ends a combined brake light/tail light and flasher 23 and inside as well a reversing light are located. To enable the ripping cylinder for the rear-mounted ripper 9 to pass through the rear end plate, the rear end plate has been equipped with recesses 25. For the releasable attachment of the rear end plate 5 on the rear transverse beam 22 there are several screwed or bolted connections 26.

[0019] A second example embodiment of a grader in accordance with the invention for deployment without a rear-mounted implement 10 is shown in Fig. 4 where the rear end plate 5 has a considerably greater wall thickness than in the first example.

[0020] Naturally, the invention is not limited to the foregoing embodiments, but it can also be modified in many ways without departing from the basic concepts.